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ITAMA is a multidisciplinary project, part financed by the Interreg Italia Malta programme, that ran from June 2018 to March 2022. The aim of the project was to verify the effectiveness of less invasive testing methods to diagnose Coeliac Disease, especially in children of paediatric age.

This is the project's final newsletter and outlines the results achieved by the whole team.

Over the course of 3 years and 10 months ITAMA built a robust diagnostic process and IT tools. Partners from Sicily and Malta worked together to screen over 20,000 Maltese minors and around 1,000 Sicilian subjects using a very simple PoCT, which is supplemented by a questionnaire to allow parents to list the presence of particular symptoms in their children. Both of these results were then entered into a database that stores the data and allows for the suggesting of further tests on the child.

All of this data was then used to form a Decision Support System that uses Artificial Intelligence to suggest to medical professionals the steps to take in an optimised and personalised diagnostic path.



PROJECT'S GOALS:

- *Support to the doctor*
- *Avoid invasive examination (biopsy) in children*

Define and implement supporting software tools (GUI, DB, DSS)



Optimise the diagnostic process

Check on mass screening:
Symptom recognition
+ PoCT + standard serological tests



Anticipate and facilitate the diagnostic process



STAKEHOLDERS:



Healthcare companies	30+3 (Sicily and Malta)
Doctors	700+70 (Sicily and Malta)
Population screened	Nearly 20,000 Maltese children and 1,000 Sicilian people



OTHER INFORMATION:

People involved	40
Meetings	70
Scientific publications	7+2 in preparation
Conference/Seminar/Workshop	4
TV / Radio / Media items	24
% of money spent	95%

acknowledgements

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- **Ministry for Education in Malta;**
- **European Funds Secretariat in Malta;**
- **Health Department of the Sicily Region;**
- **Buccheri la Ferla Hospital in Palermo;**
- **Church and Independent schools in Malta;**
- **all the college principals, school heads and school staff who collaborated with the nurses;**
- **the associations of coeliac patients in Sicily and Malta.**



Coeliac Association Malta

Coeliac Association - Malta is a non-profit NGO run by coeliacs for coeliacs. Its primary objectives are to raise awareness and provide support to coeliacs particularly during the initial traumatic period following diagnosis. The Association is willing to help you raise awareness among your students, teachers and administrative staff. If you're interested and wish to hold awareness session/s, please contact the Association on info@coeliacassociationmalta.org, on 7981 5671 or by sending an SMS or WhatsApp on the same number.



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